

Allowing mechanics to charge certain repossession fees

HB 996 by Junell/Lucio

DIGEST:	HB 996 would have amended the Property Code to entitle those who have repaired or serviced a vehicle, motorboat, vessel or outboard motor, and who have not received payment for their service, to charge fees to cover any reasonable expenses incurred in rightfully taking possession of the repaired or serviced property.
GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:	"Entities providing services for the repair and servicing of motor vehicles, boats and motors should be able to collect their fees; however, current law amply provides protection. This legislation would encourage costs to be incurred in repossession efforts under circumstances where abuses could result."
RESPONSE:	Rep. Robert Junell, author of HB 996, said: "It is unfortunate for the hard-working mechanics in Texas that the governor chose to veto HB 996. The bill would have allowed a mechanic to recover the costs of repossession where a vehicle, boat motor, etc. is repossessed for collection on a bad payment, such as a check or credit card. Currently, they have the right to repossess but cannot recover the costs, deterring many from following this course of action and ever recovering payment for services rendered. Again, the good guy pays the cost."
NOTES:	HB 996 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a <i>Daily Floor Report</i> .